

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 OPR-02 SS-15 PER-01

SCS-06 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 PM-05 TRSE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /065 W

-----023964 281703Z /43

O R 281653Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4349

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USBERLIN

SECDEF WASHDC

CINC EUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 21450

BERLIN FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CASC, UG, US, GW

SUBJECT: AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN UGANDA--CONTINGENCY
PLANNING

REF: BONN 21291

FOLLOWING OUR DISCUSSION ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON
DECEMBER 23 (REPORTED REFTEL), THE FOREIGN OFFICE SENT
A CABLE TO AMBASSADOR FROEWIS IN KAMPALA CONVEYING THE
GIST OF THE TALKS AND REQUESTING SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMA-
TION ON THE SIZE, LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE
AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN UGANDA. ON DECEMBER 27, AMBASSADOR
FROEWIS REPLIED, GIVING HIS VIEW ON THE LIKELIHOOD AND
FEASIBILITY OF AN EVACUATION OF AMERICANS.

BEGIN TEXT:

IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD CLOSE THE UGANDAN EMBASSY
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IN WASHINGTON AND CUT OFF TRADE WITH UGANDA, WE WOULD
HAVE TO EXPECT THAT IDI AMIN WOULD HOLD THE 208 AMERICANS
WHO LIVE IN UGANDA AS HOSTAGES. FROM THAT MOMENT ON,
ONLY A FEW AMERICANS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN ILLEGALLY
CROSSING THE BORDER AND THEY WOULD DO SO AT THE RISK OF
LOSING THEIR LIVES. IN THIS CASE THERE WOULD BE LITTLE
THE FRG EMBASSY COULD DO.

UP UNTIL NOW, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ADVISORY TO ITS CITIZENS TO LEAVE UGANDA HAS BEEN QUITE GENERAL. THE ONLY EFFECTIVE PRECAUTION WE SEE WOULD BE FOR THE U.S. EXPLICITLY TO WARN ITS CITIZENS THAT BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED ANTI-UGANDAN MEASURES, THEY FACE REPRISALS FROM THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT. NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE ANY OF THE MEASURES BECOME EFFECTIVE. THE FRG EMBASSY COULD THEN SEE THAT THE MESSAGE WOULD BE PASSED TO ALL AMERICANS THROUGH A SERIES OF CONTACT PERSONS AND CIRCULAR LETTERS. AN ORAL MESSAGE WOULD BE LESS CONSPICUOUS AND COULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE AMERICANS AT THE EMBASSY'S NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION (JANUARY 12) AT THE RESIDENCE.

MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN NAIROBI ON NOVEMBER 15 PRODUCED NO BETTER SOLUTION. IN THIS REGARD, NOTE THAT THE LIST OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN UGANDA IS AS CURRENT AS POSSIBLE. THE EMBASSY WILL, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, DIVIDE THE AMERICANS INTO SPECIFIC GROUPS AND NAME CONTACT PERSONS TO FACILITATE QUICK COMMUNICATIONS IF NECESSARY. A RADIO WARNING NETWORK OR PREDETERMINED EXIT ROUTES IS NOT REALIZABLE.

FINALLY, I MUST POINT OUT THAT THESE ACTIONS COULD ALSO RESULT IN THE TAKING OF THE 110 GERMAN RESIDENTS IN
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UGANDA AS HOSTAGES AND THE CLOSING OF THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA. AMIN IS SO IMPULSIVE AND INCALCULABLE THAT HE MAY REGARD THIS EMBASSY AS AN ACCOMPLICE OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."
FROEWIS

END TEXT.
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